

Application No. 10/060,341  
Amendment dated November 1, 2004  
Page 2

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently Amended) An organometallic composition, suitable for use in curing polyisocyanate compositions, comprising:

a) a complex of at least one metal selected from the group consisting of iron, aluminium and cobalt;

b) a  $\beta$ -dicarbonyl compound selected from benzoyl acetone, dibenzoylmethane, 2,2,6,6-tetramethylheptanedione, 1,1,1-trifluoro-2,4-pentanedione, or a  $\beta$ -ketoester; and

c) optionally, a second  $\beta$ -dicarbonyl compound; and at least one  $\beta$ -dicarbonyl compound

wherein, when the metal is iron (II) or cobalt (II), the molar ratio of total  $\beta$ -dicarbonyl compound to metal is in the range from 2.1 : 1 to 10 : 1, and when the metal is aluminium (III) or cobalt (III), the molar ratio of total  $\beta$ -dicarbonyl compound to metal is in the range from 3.1 : 1 to 10 : 1.

2. (Currently amended) An organometallic composition according to claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of total  $\beta$ -dicarbonyl compound to metal is in the range 3.5 : 1 to 8 : 1.

3. (Currently amended) An organometallic composition according to claim 1, wherein the second  $\beta$ -dicarbonyl compound is a  $\beta$ -diketonate or a  $\beta$ -ketoester.

4. (Original) An organometallic composition according to claim 3, wherein the second  $\beta$ -dicarbonyl compound is selected from acetylacetone, benzoyl acetone, dibenzoylmethane, 2,2,6,6-tetramethylheptanedione, 1,1,1-trifluoro-2,4-pentanedione, ethylacetoacetate, methylacetoacetate, isopropylacetoacetate or tertiarybutylacetoacetate.

5. (Original) An organometallic composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises one  $\beta$ -dicarbonyl compound.

Application No. 10/060,341  
Amendment dated November 1, 2004  
Page 3

6. (Original) An organometallic composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises more than one  $\beta$ -dicarbonyl compound.
7. (Original) An organometallic composition according to claim 1, wherein the complex is prepared by reacting an alkoxide or condensed alkoxide of aluminium with one or more  $\beta$ -dicarbonyl compound.
8. (Original) An organometallic composition according to claim 1, wherein the complex is prepared by reacting a halide, hydroxide or salt of iron, cobalt or aluminium with one or more  $\beta$ -dicarbonyl compound.
9. (Withdrawn) A polyisocyanate composition comprising an organometallic composition according to claim 1.
10. (Withdrawn) A polyisocyanate composition according to claim 9, wherein the amount of organometallic composition present is in the range 0.01 to 20 per cent by weight.
11. (Withdrawn) A polyisocyanate composition according to claim 9, wherein the polyisocyanate is diphenylmethane diisocyanate or a mixture of methylene bridged polyphenyl polyisocyanates.
12. (Withdrawn) A polyisocyanate composition according to claim 9, wherein the composition contains a release agent in an amount in the range 0.2 to 10 per cent by weight.
13. (Withdrawn) A polyisocyanate composition according to claim 12, wherein the release agent is a polysiloxane, a fatty acid, a fatty acid amide, a fatty acid ester or a polyolefin wax.
14. (Withdrawn) A polyisocyanate composition according to claim 9, wherein the composition contains a diluent.

Application No. 10/060,341  
Amendment dated November 1, 2004  
Page 4

15. (Withdrawn) A process for binding lignocellulosic material comprising the steps of:  
a) bringing said lignocellulosic material in contact with a polyisocyanate composition according to claim 9, and  
b) subsequently allowing said material to bind.

16. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 15, wherein the polyisocyanate composition is brought into contact with the lignocellulosic material and the combination thereby formed is hot-pressed at a temperature in the range 150°C to 250°C and 2 to 6 MPa specific pressure.

17. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 15, wherein the polyisocyanate composition is applied in an amount to give a weight ratio of polyisocyanate to lignocellulosic material in the range 0.1 : 99.9 to 20 : 80.

18. (Withdrawn) A process according to claim 15, wherein a release agent is applied to the surface of the polyisocyanate treated lignocellulosic material or to the press metal surface prior to hot pressing the combination.

19. (New) The organometallic composition of claim 1 further comprising at least one polyisocyanate.

20. (New) The organometallic composition of claim 19 wherein said at least one polyisocyanate is diphenylmethane diisocyanate or a mixture of methylene bridged polyphenyl polyisocyanates.

21. (New) The organometallic composition of claim 19 further comprising a release agent in an amount in the range 0.2 to 10 wt. %.

22. (New) The organometallic composition of claim 21 wherein said release agent is a polysiloxane, a fatty acid, a fatty acid amide, a fatty acid ester or a polyolefin wax.

Application No. 10/060,341  
*Amendment dated November 1, 2004*  
Page 5

23. (New) The organometallic composition according to claim 19 further comprising a diluent.